- 1			
1	EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General of the State of California		
2	MARC D. GREENBAUM Supervising Deputy Attorney General		
3	SHAWN P. COOK, State Bar No. 117851 Deputy Attorney General		
4	300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702		
5	Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 897-9954 Facsimile: (213) 897-2804		
6			
7	Attorneys for Complainant		
8	BEFORE THE		
9	BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS		
10	STATE OF CAL	IFORNIA	
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 833-A	
12	JOHN EDWARD COMBS	O.A.H. No.	
13	6013 Lakewood Blvd. Lakewood, CA 90712	ACCUSATION	
14	Land Surveyor License No. L 4861		
15	Respondent.		
16			
17	Complainant alleges:		
18	PARTIES		
19	David E. Brown (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official		
20	capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors,		
21	Department of Consumer Affairs.		
22	2. On or about March 19, 1980, the Board for Professional Engineers and		
23	Land Surveyors issued Land Surveyor License Number L 4861 to John Edward Combs		
24	(Respondent). The License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges		
25	brought herein and will expire on September 30, 2010, unless renewed.		
26	JURISDICTION		
	JURISDICI		
27		fore the Board for Professional Engineers	

following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.

- 4. Section 118, subdivision (b), of the Code provides that the suspension, expiration, surrender, or cancellation of a license shall not deprive the Board/Registrar/Director of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary action during the period within which the license may be renewed, restored, reissued or reinstated.
- 5. Section 8759, subdivision (a), provides in pertinent part, that a licensed land surveyor shall use a written contract when contracting to provide professional services to a client, and that such contract must be executed by the land surveyor and the client prior to the licensed surveyor beginning any work. The written contract shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:
- (1) A description of the services to be provided to the client by the licensed land surveyor or registered civil engineer.
- (2) A description of any basis of compensation applicable to the contract, and the method of payment agreed upon by the parties.
- (3) The name, address, and license or certificate number of the licensed land surveyor or registered civil engineer, and the name and address of the client.
- (4) A description of the procedure that the licensed land surveyor or registered civil engineer and the client will use to accommodate additional services.
- (5) A description of the procedure to be used by any party to terminate the contract.
 - 6. Section 8780 of the Code states:

"The board may receive and investigate complaints against licensed land surveyors and registered civil engineers, and make findings thereon.

"By a majority vote, the board may reprove, suspend for a period not to exceed two years, or revoke the license or certificate of any licensed land surveyor or registered civil engineer, respectively, licensed under this chapter or registered under the provisions of Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 6700), whom it finds to be guilty of:

recorder or the county surveying department, or any map or survey record maintained by the Bureau of Land Management of the United States. For purposes of this subdivision, a "material discrepancy" is limited to a material discrepancy in the position of points or lines, or in dimensions.

- (3) Evidence that, by reasonable analysis, might result in materially alternate positions of lines or points, shown on any subdivision map, official map, or record of survey previously recorded or filed in the office of the county recorder or the county surveying department, or any map or survey record maintained by the Bureau of Land Management of the United States.
- (4) The establishment of one or more points or lines not shown on any subdivision map, official map, or record of survey, the positions of which are not ascertainable from an inspection of the subdivision map, official map, or record of survey.
- (5) The points or lines set during the performance of a field survey of any parcel described in any deed or other instrument of title recorded in the county recorder's office are not shown on any subdivision map, official map, or record of survey.
- (c) The record of survey required to be filed pursuant to this section shall be filed within 90 days after the setting of boundary monuments during the performance of a field survey or within 90 days after completion of a field survey, whichever occurs first.
- (d) (1) If the 90-day time limit contained in subdivision (c) cannot be complied with for reasons beyond the control of the licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer, the 90-day time period shall be extended until the time at which the reasons for delay are eliminated. If the licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer cannot comply with the 90-day time limit, he or she shall, prior to the expiration of the 90-day time limit, provide the county surveyor with a letter stating that he or she is unable to comply. The letter shall provide an estimate of the date for completion of the record of survey, the reasons for the delay, and a general statement as to the location of the survey, including the assessor's parcel number or numbers.
- (2) The licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer shall not initially be required to provide specific details of the survey. However, if other surveys at the same location

are performed by others which may affect or be affected by the survey, the licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer shall then provide information requested by the county surveyor without unreasonable delay.

- (e) Any record of survey filed with the county surveyor shall, after being examined by him or her, be filed with the county recorder.
- (f) If the preparer of the record of survey provides a postage-paid, self-addressed envelope or postcard with the filing of the record of survey, the county recorder shall return the postage-paid, self-addressed envelope or postcard to the preparer of the record of survey with the filing data within 10 days of final filing. For the purposes of this subdivision, "filing data" includes the date, the book or volume, and the page at which the record of survey is filed with the county recorder.

8. Section 8764 of the Code states:

The record of survey shall show the applicable provisions of the following consistent with the purpose of the survey:

- (a) All monuments found, set, reset, replaced, or removed, describing their kind, size, and location, and giving other data relating thereto.
- (b) Bearing or witness monuments, basis of bearings, bearing and length of lines, scale of map, and north arrow.
- (c) Name and legal designation of the property in which the survey is located, and the date or time period of the survey.
- (d) The relationship to those portions of adjacent tracts, streets, or senior conveyances which have common lines with the survey.
 - (e) Memorandum of oaths.
 - (f) Statements required by Section 8764.5.
- (g) Any other data necessary for the intelligent interpretation of the various items and locations of the points, lines, and areas shown, or convenient for the identification of the survey or surveyor, as may be determined by the civil engineer or land surveyor preparing the record of survey.

The record of survey shall also show, either graphically or by note, the reason or reasons, if any, why the mandatory filing provisions of paragraphs (1) to (5), inclusive, of subdivision (b) of Section 8762 apply.

The record of survey need not consist of a survey of an entire property.

- 9. Section 8765 of the Code states, in pertinent part:
- "A record of survey is not required of any survey:
- (d) When the survey is a retracement of lines shown on a subdivision map, official map, or a record of survey, where no material discrepancies with those records are found and sufficient monumentation is found to establish the precise location of property corners thereon, provided that a corner record is filed for any property corners which are set or reset or found to be of a different character than indicated by prior records. For purposes of this subdivision, a "material discrepancy" is limited to a material discrepancy in the position of points or lines, or in dimensions."
 - 10. Section 8773, subdivision (a) of the Code, states:
- "(a) Except as provided in subdivision (b) of Section 8773.4, a person authorized to practice land surveying in this state shall complete, sign, stamp with his or her seal, and file with the county surveyor or engineer of the county where the corners are situated, a written record of corner establishment or restoration to be known as a "corner record" for every corner established by the Survey of the Public Lands of the United States, except "lost corners," as defined by the Manual of Instructions for the Survey of the Public Lands of the United States, and every accessory to such corner which is found, set, reset, or used as control in any survey by such authorized person."
- 11. California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 404, subdivision (n), states:

"For the sole purpose of investigating complaints and making findings thereon under Sections 6775 and 8780 of the Code, "incompetence" as used in Sections 6775 and 8780 of the Code is defined as the lack of knowledge or ability in discharging professional obligations as a professional engineer or land surveyor."

states:

28 ///

12. California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 404, subdivision (w), states:

"For the sole purpose of investigating complaints and making findings thereon under Sections 6775 and 8780 of the Code, "negligence" as used in Sections 6775 and 8780 of the Code is defined as the failure of a licensee, in the practice of professional engineering or land surveying, to use the care ordinarily exercised in like cases by duly licensed professional engineers and land surveyors in good standing."

13. California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 464, subdivision (e),

"When conducting a survey which is a retracement of lines shown on a subdivision map, official map, or a record of survey, where no material discrepancies with these records are found and where sufficient monumentation is found to establish the precise location of property corners thereon, a corner record may be filed in lieu of a record of survey for any property corners which are set or reset or found to be of a different character than indicated by prior records. Such corner records may show one or more property corners, property controlling corners, reference monuments, or accessories to property corners on a single corner record document so long as it is legible, clear, and understandable."

14. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 464, subdivision (c), the corner record shall be filed within 90 days from the date a corner was found, set, reset, or used as control in any survey.

COST RECOVERY/RESTITUTION

15. Code section 125.3 provides that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

3

(Negligence/Incompetence)

4 5

16. Code in that he failed to use the care ordinarily exercised in like cases by a duly licensed land

7

6

8 9

10 11

12 13

14 15

16 17

18 19

20

21

22

23 24

25

26 27

28

Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 8780(b) of the

surveyor in the practice of land surveying, or in the alternative, lacked the requisite knowledge

and skill to discharge his duties. The circumstances are as follows:

- 17. In or about 2001, Respondent performed a survey of lots in a recorded property subdivision located in San Bernardino County, California, more particularly described as Tract No. 1868 Sleepy Hollow Number Two. Respondent based his survey on record bearings and distances from an old map that does not close mathematically by gross amounts. Respondent started his survey at points set by the San Bernardino County Surveyor that were shown on a recent "record of survey" but did not extend beyond his client's property to check into other points.
- 18. Respondent filed a "record of survey" instead of a "corner record", but gave no reason for filing the former rather than the latter, as required by Code section 8764, subpart (g). Respondent noted on his "record of survey", "FILE THIS MAP WITHOUT ANY CHANGES." Respondent's map contained some number transpositions and was smaller than the required size, and was returned by the San Bernardino County Surveyor for corrections.
- 19. After Respondent corrected the map and re-filed it, the County Surveyor added a statement of his objections to Respondent's map, including: failure to tie into the easterly or southerly boundary of the tract being surveyed; failure to document making a diligent search for other monumentation; failure to note lines of occupation or improvements and summarized "this map is not in accordance with accepted survey procedures."
- 20. Respondent's failure to tie into any other points along the easterly or southerly boundary of the tract that he surveyed constitutes negligence.
- 21. Respondent's failure to locate evidence of original corners, noted as being marked with redwood 2" x 2" stakes on the original tract map constitutes negligence, or in the

Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 8759,

28.

28

subdivision(a), in that he failed to execute a written contract with his client before commencing any work, as set forth in the preceding paragraph 23.

FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to File Timely Record of Survey)

29. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 8780, subdivision (d), and 8762, subdivisions (b) and (c) in that he failed to file a record of survey within 90 days after having conducted a survey on property and having set new boundary monuments or established one or more points or lines not shown on any previous subdivision map, official map, or record of survey, or under circumstances in which the survey disclosed material evidence and/or physical changes and/or discrepancies with maps and surveys previously filed in the county recorder's office pertaining to the land at issue, or could have, by reasonable analysis, resulted in materially alternate positions of lines or points shown on previous maps or surveys pertaining to the property, as set forth in the preceding paragraphs 23 through 25.

FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to File Timely Corner Record)

30. In the alternative to the preceding paragraph 29, if Respondent was for any reason not required to file a timely record of survey within 90 days after having conducted the survey described in the preceding paragraphs 23 through 25, then Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 8780, subdivision (d), and 8765, subdivision (d), and California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 464, subdivision (c), in that he failed to file a corner record within 90 days after having conducted a survey

3572 Delta Ave., Long Beach, CA

SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Negligence)

31. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 8780(b) of the Code in that he failed to use the care ordinarily exercised in like cases by a duly licensed land

surveyor in the practice of land surveying, or in the alternative, lacked the requisite knowledge and skill to discharge his duties. The circumstances are as follows:

32. In or about 2005, Respondent performed a survey of a lot in a recorded subdivision for the property identified as 3572 Delta Ave., Long Beach, CA. The plat prepared by Respondent shows points set, but no method of establishment. There is no block closure to verify any of the numbers on the plat. The plat is signed, sealed and dated by Respondent, but is not on the correct Board approved form. Respondent did not record the plat. Depending upon the circumstances, if a record of survey was not required to be filed, in the alternative, respondent was required to file a corner record. Respondent neither filed a record of survey nor filed a corner record.

SEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to File Timely Record of Survey)

33. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 8780, subdivision (d), and 8762, subdivisions (b) and (c) in that he failed to file a record of survey within 90 days after having conducted a survey on property and having set new boundary monuments or established one or more points or lines not shown on any previous subdivision map, official map, or record of survey, or under circumstances in which the survey disclosed material evidence and/or physical changes and/or discrepancies with maps and surveys previously filed in the county recorder's office pertaining to the land at issue, or could have, by reasonable analysis, resulted in materially alternate positions of lines or points shown on previous maps or surveys pertaining to the property, as set forth in the preceding paragraphs 31 and 32.

EIGHTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to File Timely Corner Record)

34. In the alternative to the preceding paragraph 33, if Respondent was for any reason not required to file a timely record of survey within 90 days after having conducted the survey described in the preceding paragraphs 31 and 32, then Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 8780, subdivision (d), and 8765, subdivision (d), and

California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 464, subdivision (c), in that he failed to file a corner record within 90 days after having conducted a survey.

NINTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Execute a Written Contract)

35. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 8759, subdivision(a), in that he failed to execute a written contract with his client before commencing any work, as set forth in the preceding paragraph 32.

Lot 283, Tract 907 MM 28/25-33, Newport Beach, CA

TENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to File Timely Record of Survey)

- 36. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 8780, subdivision (d), and 8762, subdivisions (b) and (c) in that he failed to file a record of survey within 90 days after having conducted a survey on property and having set new boundary monuments or established one or more points or lines not shown on any previous subdivision map, official map, or record of survey, or under circumstances in which the survey disclosed material evidence and/or physical changes and/or discrepancies with maps and surveys previously filed in the county recorder's office pertaining to the land at issue, or could have, by reasonable analysis, resulted in materially alternate positions of lines or points shown on previous maps or surveys pertaining to the property. The circumstances are as follows:
- 37. Sometime prior to 2009, Respondent set monuments as were found to exist on submitted Record of Survey 2008-1040, description being All Corner of Lot 283, Tract 907 MM 28/25-33, Newport Beach, CA. However, Respondent failed to file a Record of Survey within 90 days after setting his monuments and further, ignored inquiries by letters dated January 2, 2009 and May 15, 2009 from the Joint Professional Practices Committee of the California Land Surveyor's Assoc. concerning the facts of Respondent not filing a Record of Survey for the monuments he set.

DISCIPLINE CONSIDERATIONS

38. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on

Respondent, Complainant alleges that in a prior citation matter before the Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, Case Number 5064-L, Citation Order 5064-L was issued to Respondent on February 28, 2001. It became final on March 30, 2001. The citation was issued to Respondent after an investigation revealed that he had violated Business and Profession Code section 8762 by failing to record a Record of Survey within 90 days after performing a filed survey in September 1997 during which he set monuments and established boundary lines on property located in San Bernardino County. After being contacted by the Enforcement Unit of the Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors during the course of the investigation in 1999 and 2000, Respondent submitted the Record of Survey to the County Surveyor's Office for checking but failed to resubmit it within 60 days after it was returned to him by the County, in violation of Business and Professions Code section 8767. Respondent' survey was recorded in February 2001. Citation Order 5064-L also contained an Order of Abatement ordering Respondent to comply with the Section 8762 and 8767 by timely filing and resubmitting his records of survey.

DISCIPLINE CONSIDERATIONS

Respondent, Complainant alleges that in a prior citation matter before the Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, Case Number 5064-L, Citation Order 5064-L was issued to Respondent on February 28, 2001. It became final on March 30, 2001. The citation was issued to Respondent after an investigation revealed that he had violated Business and Profession Code section 8762 by failing to record a Record of Survey within 90 days after performing a filed survey in September 1997 during which he set monuments and established boundary lines on property located in San Bernardino County. After being contacted by the Enforcement Unit of the Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors during the course of the investigation in 1999 and 2000, Respondent submitted the Record of Survey to the County Surveyor's Office for checking but failed to resubmit it within 60 days after it was returned to him by the County, in violation of Business and Professions Code section 8767. Respondent' survey was recorded in February 2001. Citation Order 5064-L also contained an Order of Abatement ordering

.1	Respondent to comply with the Section 8762 and 8767 by timely filing and resubmitting his		
2	records of survey.		
3	40. Citation Order 5064-L also contained a civil penalty in the amount of		
4	\$500.00, which was to be paid within 30 days of the citation becoming final. The fine was paid		
5	on April 22, 2004. The citation is now final and is incorporated by reference as if fully set		
6	forth.		
7	PRAYER		
8	WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein		
9	alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors		
10	issue a decision:		
11	1. Revoking or suspending Land Surveyor License Number L 4861, issued to		
12	John Edward Combs,		
13	2. Ordering John Edward Combs to pay the Board for Professional Engineers		
14	and Land Surveyors the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case,		
15	pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3;		
16	 Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper. 		
17	11/12/		
18	DATED: U2 /07		
19			
20	Original Signed		
21	David E. Brown		
22	Executive Officer Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors		
23	Department of Consumer Affairs State of California		
24	Complainant		
25			
26			
27	LA2008504015		
•	60475146.wpd		

	8		
1	EDMUND G. Brown Jr.		
2	Attorney General of California MARC D. GREENBAUM		
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General SHAWN P. COOK		
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 117851		
5	300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013		
6	Telephone: (213) 897-9954 Facsimile: (213) 897-2804		
7	Attorneys for Complainant		
8	DEEO	DE THE	
9	BEFORE THE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
10			
11	In the Metter of the According According	C N 022 4	
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 833-A	
13	JOHN EDWARD COMBS 6013 Lakewood Blvd.	OAH No. L-2010050570	
	Lakewood, CA 90712 Land Surveyor License No. L 4861	SUPPLEMENTAL ACCUSATION	
14 15	Respondent.		
16	Complainant alleges as a Supplemental Accusation to the Accusation in this matter filed or		
17	November 25, 2009 as follows:		
18	Centerline of Kings Road, 810' Easterly of Signal Road, Referenced on Corner Record		
19	2009-2811A, Newport Beach, CA		
20	ELEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE		
21	(Failure to File Timely Record of Survey)		
22	41. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 8780, subdivision		
23	(d), and 8762, subdivisions (b) and (c) in that he failed to file a record of survey within 90 days		
24	after having conducted a survey on property and having set new boundary monuments or		
25	established one or more points or lines not shown on any previous subdivision map, official map		
26	or record of survey, or under circumstances in which the survey disclosed material evidence		
27	and/or physical changes and/or discrepancies with maps and surveys previously filed in the		
28	county recorder's office pertaining to the land at issue, or could have, by reasonable analysis,		

resulted in materially alternate positions of lines or points shown on previous maps or surveys pertaining to the property. The circumstances are as follows:

42. Sometime prior to 2010, Respondent set monuments as were found to exist on submitted Corner Record 2009-2811A, description being Centerline of Kings Road, 810' Easterly of Signal Road, Newport Beach, CA. However, Respondent failed to file a Record of Survey within 90 days after setting his monuments and further, ignored inquiries by letters dated December 6, 2009 and March 8, 2010, from the Joint Professional Practices Committee of the California Land Surveyor's Assoc. concerning the facts of Respondent not filing a Record of Survey for the monuments he set.

Centerline of Kings Road, 670' Easterly of Signal Road, Referenced on Corner Record 2009-2803A, Newport Beach, CA

TWELFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to File Timely Record of Survey)

- 43. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 8780, subdivision (d), and 8762, subdivisions (b) and (c) in that he failed to file a record of survey within 90 days after having conducted a survey on property and having set new boundary monuments or established one or more points or lines not shown on any previous subdivision map, official map, or record of survey, or under circumstances in which the survey disclosed material evidence and/or physical changes and/or discrepancies with maps and surveys previously filed in the county recorder's office pertaining to the land at issue, or could have, by reasonable analysis, resulted in materially alternate positions of lines or points shown on previous maps or surveys pertaining to the property. The circumstances are as follows:
- 44. Sometime prior to 2010, Respondent set monuments as were found to exist on submitted Corner Record 2009-2803A, description being Centerline of Kings Road, 670' Easterly of Signal Road, Newport Beach, CA. However, Respondent failed to file a Record of Survey within 90 days after setting his monuments and further, ignored inquiries by letters dated December 6, 2009 and March 8, 2010, from the Joint Professional Practices Committee of the

1	California Land Surveyor's Assoc. concerning the facts of Respondent not filing a Record of		
2	Survey for the monuments he set.		
3	PRAYER		
4	WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged,		
5	and that following the hearing, the Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors issue a		
6	decision:		
7	Revoking or suspending Land Surveyor License Number L 4861, issued to John		
8	Edward Combs;		
9	2. Ordering John Edward Combs to pay the Board for Professional Engineers and Land		
10	Surveyors the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to		
11	Business and Professions Code section 125.3;		
12	3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.		
13	1 + 10 - 10		
14	DATED: MAN 192010 Original Signed DAVIDE. BROWN		
15	Executive Officer		
16	Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors Department of Consumer Affairs State of California		
17	Complainant		
18	LA2008504015		
19	accusation.rtf		
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			
26			
27			
28			